

Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 RSR-01 /091 W

----- 014132

R 202035Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2932

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5271

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR, PERON

SUBJ: SPECULATION CONCERNING PERON'S HEALTH IS ESCALATING

2. THERE ARE WIDESPREAD RUMORS THAT PERON'S HEALTH HAS DECLINED
DRAMATICALLY DURING PAST FEW DAYS. THESE RANGE ALL THE WAY
FROM STORIES OF AN URGENT OPERATION THIS MORNING (JULY 20) TO
SPECULATION THAT HE CONTINUES TO NEED BLOOD TRANFUSIONS.
LA OPINION THIS MORNING REPORTED THAT NEWSMEN WHO COVER
PERON'S HOME BELIEVE HE TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE YESTERDAY
AFTERNOON.

2. THERE IS LITTLE FIRM INFORMATION TO GO ON AND SINCE
PERON'S HEALTH IS THE KEY TO A VIABLE SOLUTION HERE, IT IS
INEVITABLE THAT IT WILL BE THE PRIMARY TOPIC OF CONVERSATION
AND THE SUBJECT OF INNUMERABLE RUMORS. FROM HERE ON OUT HE
WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SNEEZE WITHOUT CAUSING FLURRIES OF SPECULA-
TION. INDEED, ONE OF THE CURRENT RUMORS IS THAT THE STORIES
OF HIS ILL HEALTH ARE BEING DELIBERATELY FABRICATED AND
FLOATED BY DISSIDENT MEMBERS OF PERONIST YOUTH WHO ARE
STILL SMARTING FROM THE OUSTER OF CAMPORA. THERE ARE
TWO HARD FACTS, HOWEVER. PERON HAS REMAINED IN HIS HOME
SINCE HIS CALL ON BALBIN JUNE 24, AND HE HAS NOT MADE ANY
PUBLIC APPEARANCES SINCE HIS TELEVISED SPEECH LAST FRIDAY
(JULY 13). THIS MAY SUGGEST ONLY THAT HE IS TAKING

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ADVANTAGE OF LULL BEFORE PERIOD OF INTENSE ACTIVITY IN

ORDER TO RECUPERATE FROM RECENT PUBLICLY ADMITTED ILLNESS.
THERE ARE NO ASSURANCES, HOWEVER, THAT IT DOES NOT SUGGEST
SOME MORE SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN HIS CONDITION, THE POLITICAL
CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH COULD BE EXTREMELY GRAVE.
KREBS

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NNN

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TAGS: PINT, AR, (PERON)
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